

**Johanna’s Commentary:** The title apprises us that this poem is a meditation on reflection on both literal and metaphoric levels. The first stanza describes the narrator at first dawn (a reflection of night) encountering a “double heron,” the literal heron mirrored in the pond, which also reflects the sky and the heron’s darting eye, quick to track a possible fish flickering in the water. The second stanza is a mirror image of the first, building backwards with a somewhat different result. Here, an unidentified black eye shimmers independently, not triggered by movement, but simply... shimmering, perhaps reflecting the sky. Then, “something stirs,” perhaps a fish, but perhaps a bird or perhaps the narrator. All we know is that its reflection is visible in the pond. Still later the narrator detects the double heron, which could be a single bird existing both in the world and in the waters of the pond, but also perhaps a heron doubled in reality – its mate.

So the meaning of the poem has shifted subtly as a result of its reflection. And then – a final twist. The last line is an inverted reflection of itself. By juxtaposing the words “see” and “wake,” the author suggests that it is only by seeing clearly and deeply, only by appreciating things and their mirrors, that we truly become awake and present to the mysteries of the world – and ourselves.

Deane back to Johanna; omg, you are both my muse and my translator (even to me:) this is great, thanks; love love

Johanna back to Deane:

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Oh good, glad you liked the commentary. It was fun to do, and I had GREAT material to work with! When I studied the poem, I realized it was more complex and subtle than I first grasped (as is often true of really good poetry 😊). Thanks for the opportunity. Love, J

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